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## **Kolste praises progress on Family Care and I-39/90 funding**

MADISON – Rep. Debra Kolste (D-Janesville) applauded a key legislative committee for advancing two measures that will benefit Rock County and Janesville.

Assembly Bill 453 expands Family Care to Rock County, which has been one of a handful of counties in the state where Family Care has not been in force. The bill allows Rock County to get the same level of services for disabled people that are available in 64 other counties.

The Joint Committee on Finance approved the bill unanimously after testimony by Rock County Administrator Josh Smith. Rep. Amy Loudenberg (R-Clinton) is a chief sponsor. Rep. Kolste and all other legislators who represent parts of Rock County are co-sponsors.

“Family Care in Rock County will eliminate long waiting lists for disabled people to get services that are available everywhere else in the state,” Kolste said. “I have neighbors whose adult children have been waiting for many years for these services.”

Approval by the Finance Committee means that the bill is ready for consideration by the full Assembly.

The Finance Committee also approved bonding for transportation projects that will allow the I-39/90 project to proceed on schedule. Lack of transportation funding in the budget meant that the project would be delayed for years. The Legislature had declined to exercise bonding authority when the 2015 budget was passed.

“The I-39/90 project is absolutely essential to the economies of Rock County and Janesville,” Rep. Kolste said. “I am thankful that we have taken a step toward getting it off the ground. I am worried about borrowing for these purposes and fearful that funds will be taken from general revenues.”

Kolste called for an adequate, dedicated funding source for vital transportation infrastructure.

“We need to improve certain roads and rebuild bridges and other infrastructure,” Kolste said. “We cannot keep pushing these costs down the road,” she said.”